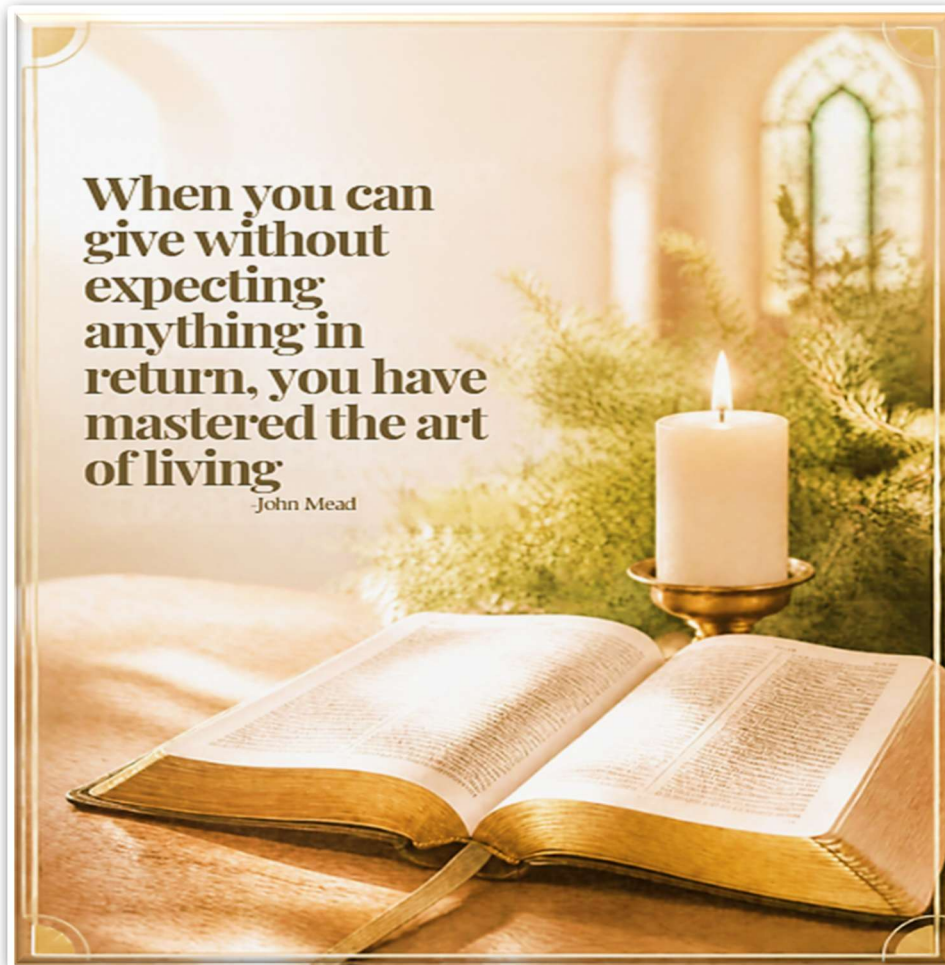


OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2026

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mahoning

826 Mahoning Drive West; Lehighton Pa 18235 • Church office: 570-386-9960 • Email address: stjohns@ptd.net
Website: www.stjohnsmahoning.org • Facebook at StJohnsMahoning • "A Family of friends alive with God's love!"



Church Staff

Pastor

Music Director
Bookkeeper
Sexton
Church Admin
Church Office
Church Office hours

Reverend Anthony Pagotto
(610-377-4242)
Colleen Rudelitsch
Cathy Smith
Sherry Stafiniak
Anne Scott
570-386-9960
M-W-F 9 AM-2 PM

2026 Church Council

Reverend Anthony Pagotto

Donald Freeman, **President**

Allison Everett, **V. President**

Keith Drummond

Geoff Ebbert

Julia Schock

Ronald Fried

Kimberly Gerhard

Cheryl Kistler

Colleen Rudelitsch

Worship Schedule for October 2026 at St. John's

Oct. 4 – 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School **11 AM** Sanctuary Worship *with Holy Communion*

***Oct. 10 - 11 AM** Blessing of the Animals (*Saturday)

Oct. 11 – 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School **11 AM** Sanctuary Worship **2 PM** Crop Walk

Oct. 18 – 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School **11 AM** Fellowship Hall Worship – **Healing Sunday**

Oct. 25 – 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School **11 AM** Sanctuary Worship *with Holy Communion* –
Reformation Sunday

10/2 Lucille Bredbenner
 10/10 Patricia Digilio
 10/10 Kimberly Gerhard
 10/11 Myrtle Creitz
 10/14 Eli Haldeman
 10/15 Dennis Yenser
 10/16 Cynthia Cygler
 10/17 Isabella Stinemire



10/18 Deborah Scheckler
 10/20 Carol Nothstein
 10/20 Vickie Malloy
 10/22 Stacey Ladeas
 10/27 Brad Haupt
 10/28 Gregory Willet
 10/30 Donald Freeman

(If we missed your birthday for this month, it is possible we do not have it in our membership database. Please give us a call at the office (570-386-9960) so we can update our files.)

Grief Support- will meet on **Monday, Oct. 5th & Monday, Oct. 19th at 6:00 PM.**

Book Club- will meet **Tuesday, Oct. 27th at 6:30 PM** with book *"On Mystic Lake"* by Kristin Hannah.

Dinner & Discussion- will meet on **Thursday, Oct. 22nd at 6:30 PM.** Please contact **Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723** with any questions.

Fermenting Our Faith- will meet on **Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 6:00 PM.** This will be at the **443 Diner.**

Fundraising Committee- will meet on **Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 6:30 PM.**

Community Cupboard- Dinkey Memorial has a food cupboard available to those in need of supplemental food resources. It is **available to members of Dinkey Memorial and St. John's, and to residents of East Penn Township.** The distribution is the **third Thursday of every month from 3:30-5:00 PM** in Dinkey's Social Room, located below the sanctuary. If you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving food from the Community Cupboard, please speak with Pr. Tony.

Message from the Fundraising Team:

- ◆ It's time for our annual Fall Bazaar! If you're able to help, stop by anytime.
- ◆ Plants & baked goods can be brought to church Fri or Sat morning.
- ◆ Spread the word by posting on social media & hanging flyers. Invite your family, friends, & neighbors.
- ◆ Slingshot esports will receive 20% of profits.
- ◆ Also, bring an item for the Trinity Food Pantry &/or for the Bare
- ◆ Necessities Pantry or donate money to receive a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Their wish lists are in your newsletter & bulletin.
- ◆ Donut orders for our final sale of this year are due on Oct 18th. Stock up for winter! They freeze well.



Council Meetings are held the second Monday of every month unless otherwise noted.
 (Complete copies of the minutes may be obtained from the church office.)

September Council & Congregational Meetings – Items Discussed

- There will be an added Christmas Eve service at St John's at 11 pm. Kimberly Gerhard, LLM will be presiding at this service. This is in addition to the 3 pm service at St John's and the 5 pm & 10 pm at Dinkey Memorial that Pastor Tony will preach at.
 - There are no children this year for a Christmas sign language program. This will be open to anyone interested. Please see a Council member if you are willing to participate.
 - St John's will donate 18 turkeys for the free Thanksgiving dinners that the 5 sister churches are sponsoring. This is held at Ben Salem. Please see the advertising on page 7 on how and when to order.
 - The next scheduled meeting is: **Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM.**
- ****A reminder to everyone that council meetings are open to all members of St John's Ev. Lutheran Church.**

Prayers for our Congregation Members

Family of Richard Koch

Family of Cliff Gledhill

Family of Roger Tyson

Emma Weaver

Rolf Hohenstein

Kathleen Merluzzi

Neil Gilbert

Stacy Freeman

Matt Fisher

Marla Lawson

Lisa Moyer

Connie Christman

Bart Cunfer

Jeanette Jennings

Donna Horvath

Brenda Lasky

Mike Andrews

Liz Koch

Arthur Rudelitsch

Florence Duffy

Joan Fontana

Prayers for Our Friends

Peggy Drummond

Adam Elinich

Ardith Huesz

Jackie Strauss Everet

Nicole Rowles

Dolores Solt

Chris Green

Trace Gonet

Orpha Nothstein

Geo DeAngelo

Joanie Radler

Kathy Steigerwalt

Lyman Grube

Stewart Henritz

Shane Waskmunski

Kyle Strohl

Elaine Koons

Jen Nielsen

Randy Semmel

Wesley King

Shirley Long

Richard Elinich

Cathy Smith

James Keller

Adrian Davis

Richard Koch

Fern Miller

Dan Myers

Please also pray for

Doctors without Borders.

Those struggling with mental health.

Refugees all over the world.

The Homeless.

Global Refuge.

The People of Israel and Gaza.

The Children of Ukraine.

Prayers for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care Members

Judith Ahner

Marie Boyer

Joan Heintzelman

Kathryn Leibenguth

Elaine Windbeck

Willard Ahner

Myrtle Creitz

Scott Heintzelman

Dorothy Reinhart

Rachel Bednar

Mary Flyzik

Carol Houser

Ruth Troxell

Ferne Berger

Carolyn Zacharias

Mary Ann Kollar

Betty Willet

Our Military Personnel at Home and Abroad

Dalton Berger

Sean Fisher

Dustin McCarroll

Jonathan Sheehan

Daniel Berger

Austin Heilman

Noah Rodgers

Dylan White

Douglas Boyer

AJ Light

Grant Schaeffer

Aaron Cetnar

Ryan McArdle

Alexis Scott

•If you wish to put yourself, a friend or loved one on the church prayer list, please call the church office at 570-386-9960 or email stjohns@ptd.net. The name is placed on the list for 30 days unless we receive a monthly update. Please feel free to let the office know if someone should be removed as well. Thank you!



Morning Prayer Zoom
Wednesdays at 9 AM
<http://zoom.us/j/187911224>
Meeting ID: 187 911 224
Call in: 1-929-205-6099

Bible Study Zoom
Thursdays at 9 :30 AM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/586370219>
Meeting ID: 586 370 219
Call in: 1-929-205-6099

Trinity Food Pantry 2026 October Cereal



All Saints Sunday is November 1, 2026

During worship we will be running a slideshow of photos on our TV monitor in the front of the Sanctuary. These photos will be of our friends and family members who have passed on to eternal life with our God. If you would like someone you love and miss to be part of this slideshow, please email their picture to Colleen at crudelitsch@gmail.com or to the office at stjohns@ptd.net. You can also drop them off at the church office to be scanned.

Deadline to send a picture is Monday, Oct. 26th.

The picture to the left is an example of what you can send us.

"He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever."

Rev. 21:4 The Living Bible

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MAHONING**
826 MAHONING DRIVE WEST ~ LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

FALL BAZAAR

- Basket Raffle • Bake Sale • Candy
- Fall Decorations • Raffle Tickets • Plants
- Homemade Food • Filling

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 | 5 - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 | 9 AM - 2 PM

20% of the profits will go to:
SLINGSHOT ESPORTS

Collecting Donations at St John's Church of Mahoning Fall Bazaar Oct. 2 & 3, 2026



Lehighton Food Pantry & Bare Necessities Pantry

We will be collecting for the Lehighton Food Pantry and Bare Necessities Pantry.



\$50 Gift Card Chance to Win

Bring in a donation and receive a chance to enter to win a \$50 gift card to either Giant or Walmart. Bring donations for both pantries and receive two chances. Drawing 2 PM on Sat., October 3rd. You need not be present to win.



As part of St. John's mission outreach, we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items for the **Lehighton Food Pantry** at our Fall Bazaar along with toiletry items (toilet paper, bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, womens feminine products, diapers and baby wipes) for the **Bare Necessities Pantry** at St. Peter's Community Resource Center located at 177 Main Road in Weissport.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton PA 18235



CROP HUNGER WALK
BY CWS

CHICKENS, BEANS AND BIG *Dreams*

Carbon County CROP Walk

October 11, 2026, 2:00PM

600 Riverview Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Join us as we walk to fight against hunger!

crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/lehightonpa



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

Donate or sign up for your walk today!

CHICKENS, BEANS AND BIG *Dreams*

In Kenya and Tanzania, CWS is empowering people to learn, grow and thrive. Through the CROP Hunger Walk, you're helping provide the tools families need to support themselves and their communities.

CWS is committed to meeting immediate needs while also advocating for long-term change. We prepare communities for the future, working with them to adapt to a changing world and overcome challenges.

Your support brings access to clean water, nutritious food and life-changing resources. It helps protect children, responds to disasters, offers safe housing and creates sustainable solutions to combat poverty. Your support also helps provide educational opportunities for children and adults, builds local economies and empowers individuals to start their own businesses – truly helping them achieve their big dreams.

Through your steps, you're doing more than just providing chickens or teaching sustainable farming. You're fostering inclusivity, introducing new technologies to improve harvests and ensuring that every community member is supported.

Together, we're empowering individuals, strengthening communities and creating lasting change.

Chickens, Beans and Big Dreams!

 \$15 Chickens for a family in Tanzania	 \$25 A month of groceries for a refugee in Egypt	 \$60 A sheep in Haiti	 \$106 A share of a well in Cambodia
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888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG

To learn more, scan here!

WINTER COAT COLLECTION



ST JOHN'S WILL AGAIN BE COLLECTING WINTER COATS AND WINTER OUTERWEAR DURING THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER & NOVEMBER TO DISTRIBUTE TO THOSE IN NEED IN DECEMBER FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Look for the collection boxes in the Sanctuary Narthes and foyer to the Social Hall

Thank you in advance for your donation to this mission outreach project. Questions, please contact Cheryl Kistler @ 610-533-5723.

Donut Sale



Thursday, November 5

Please order by Sunday, October 18

Call/Text/Email Anne Yenser 570-390-9108 or anneyens@ptd.net

Name _____

Phone # _____

_____ (1) Persian X \$2.50 \$ _____

_____ (2) Iced Long Johns X \$5.00 \$ _____

_____ (2) Coconut Long Johns X \$5.50 \$ _____

_____ (6) Cider Donuts X \$8.00 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Pick up

_____ Wed. 3:30-5 PM

_____ Thurs. 9-10 AM

St. John's Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2026**, following morning worship in fellowship hall. The purpose of this meeting is to pass the 2027 budget and elect council members. Please join us for this meeting and share in the conversation.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
826 Mahoning Drive West
Lehigh, PA 18235
570-386-9960

Rummage is Returning in 2027!

Thanks to the interest of Stacy Freeman and Julia Schock, we will be planning a rummage sale in 2027!

*We will start taking donations in **October 2026**.

*Donations can be placed in the back half of the nursery room.

*A gentle reminder that we **will not accept** clothing, electronics, large appliances or furniture.

*What we **will accept** are dishes, cookware, and other household items, small kitchen appliances, holiday decorations, linens, books, puzzles, toys, gardening items, etc.

If you have any questions please reach out to Stacy, Julia or Cheryl.

We look forward to turning your discarded items into someone else's treasure!

FERMENTING OUR FAITH

Join us as we gather to explore faith together in a relaxed format.

Share your questions, ponderings, and even doubts.

Oct. 14th & Nov. 11th

6:00 PM

Beacon 443 Diner

35 Blakeslee Blvd Dr E
Lehigh PA 18235

Contact Pr. Tony if you have any questions
@ 570-386-9960 or prdrinkl@ptd.net

ALL ARE WELCOME

NOTE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

With the congregations approval, St. John's will be moving forward with our men's and women's bathroom remodeling project. We do not anticipate the construction to start until after the first of the new year.

The Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that donations can be made to the project in the Building and Grounds section of your weekly envelope. You can make a one time donation or choose to spread your donation out over several weeks or months.

Budgeting for the bathroom remodeling project will be included in our 2027 yearly budget as the costs will be incurred that year. However, starting now to increase the funds in our Building and Grounds account will go a long way to take care of those costs in 2027.

Thank you in advance for your support.

The Finance Committee,

Keith Drummond

Sheila Drummond

Don Freeman

Cheryl Kistler



Daily Lectionary Readings for October 2026

Thursday, October 01, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:1-9; Colossians 2:16-23;
Friday, October 02, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:14-19; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a;
Saturday, October 03, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:10-13; John 7:40-52;
Sunday, October 04, 2026: Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Monday, October 05, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10;
Tuesday, October 06, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21;
Wednesday, October 07, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; John 11:45-57;
Thursday, October 08, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14;
Friday, October 09, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:9-11; James 4:4-10;
Saturday, October 10, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:12-18; Mark 2:18-22;
Sunday, October 11, 2026: Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Monday, October 12, 2026: Psalm 97; Exodus 32:15-35; Jude 17-25;
Tuesday, October 13, 2026: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:1-6; Philippians 3:13-4:1;
Wednesday, October 14, 2026: Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17:7-20; John 6:25-35;
Thursday, October 15, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 33:7-11; 3 John 9-12;
Friday, October 16, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5;
Saturday, October 17, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 39:32-43; Matthew 14:1-12;
Sunday, October 18, 2026: Psalm 96:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Monday, October 19, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 40:34-38; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20;
Tuesday, October 20, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 12:1-9; Revelation 18:21-24;
Wednesday, October 21, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9; Matthew 17:22-27;
Thursday, October 22, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; Titus 1:5-16;
Friday, October 23, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15;
Saturday, October 24, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; John 5:39-47;
Sunday, October 25, 2026: Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Monday, October 26, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Numbers 33:38-39; James 2:8-13;
Tuesday, October 27, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Exodus 34:29-35; James 2:14-26;
Wednesday, October 28, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7; Matthew 19:16-22;
Thursday, October 29, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 1:1-11; Romans 2:17-29;
Friday, October 30, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3;
Saturday, October 31, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:15-24; Matthew 23:13-28;

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahoning

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

11:00AM in St. John's, Mahoning pavilion.

God spoke: "Let us make humankind in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of the earth." *Genesis 1:26, The Message*

All pets are welcome! Please have your pets leashed or crated for their safety and those around them.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mahoning

826 Mahoning Drive West

Lehigh, PA 18235

570-386-9960



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Personalize Your Style - We Bring Your Vision to Life. We offer professional customization services for individuals, businesses, and events, helping you turn ideas into standout pieces you'll be proud to wear and share.

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2026

Free Thanksgiving Meal

Pre-registration Required

Five sister churches: Zion Stone West Penn, St Peter's West Penn, St John's Mahoning, Dinkey Memorial Ashfield, and Ben Salem UCC Andreas are sponsoring a free Thanksgiving meal on Saturday, November 21, 2026 · This will be a drive-thru pick up at Ben Salem UCC at 1965 Church Hill Road · Lehighton, PA 18235 · from 1pm to 3pm.

Registration

You must pre-register to receive your free meal by calling Nancy Meiser at 570-205-9267, Monday - Friday, 9am-4pm.

Registration begins November 2nd - November 16th.

If Nancy is unable to answer your call, please leave your name, phone number and number of meals you are requesting.

Limited number of meals available.

Christmas Eve Plant Orders Coming Soon

Stay tuned for order forms for Christmas Eve poinsettias and cactus. As soon as we get pricing from the greenhouse, the information and forms will be printed and advertised.



Harvest Home Sunday was held September 20th at St John's. The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated by the sponsored mums from Yenser's Tree Farm. Non-perishable food donations were collected for those in need. During the service, there was a "Dedication of the Altar and Baptismal Font." The altar was presented by Kim Gerhard to the glory of God. The baptismal font was presented by Carol Houser in memory of her mother, Angeline Fisher, and her sister, Lois Fisher. (The pictures below are from the service.)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
4 Pentecost 19 Pastor off→ 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Sanctuary Service with Holy Communion	5 Pastor off→ 6PM Grief Support	6 Office Closed Parish Secretary Conference	7 9 AM Prayer with Pastor Office Closed Parish Secretary Conference	8 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor Office open 9-2	9 5-7:30 PM  Fall Bazaar	10 11 AM Blessing of the Animals 9 AM – 2 PM  Fall Bazaar
11 Pentecost 20 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Sanctuary Service 2 PM Crop Walk	12 Columbus Day 10 AM Pastor @ Palmer House	13 Nov Newsletter Deadline	14 9 AM Prayer with Pastor 6-8 Fermenting Our Faith (443 Diner) 6:30 PM Fundraising Committee Meeting	15 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor 3:30-5 PM Dinkey Comm. Food Dist.	16	17
18 Pentecost 21 Healing Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Fellowship Hall Service Donut orders are due today!	19 6:30 PM Council Meeting	20	21 9 AM Prayer with Pastor 6:30 PM Fundraising Committee Meeting	22 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor 6:30 PM Dinner & Discussion	23	24
25 Pentecost 22 Reformation Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Sanctuary Service with Holy Communion	26 6PM Grief Support	27	28 9 AM Prayer with Pastor	29 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor	30	31 Reformation Day Halloween

